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O 201722Z DEC 07
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9588
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0387
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0869
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0874
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 1777
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 0526
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1921
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0178
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0828

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DEPARTMENT FOR IO/MPR DAVID LEIS
USUN/MR FOR BRUCE RASHKOW

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/20/2017

TAGS: [AORC](#) [UNGA](#) [XA](#) [XD](#) [IT](#)

SUBJECT: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE: ITALY DOES NOT SUPPORT U.S.
BUDGET PROPOSALS

REF: STATE 168902

Classified By: Political Officer Gabriel Escobar, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Poloff delivered reftel points to MFA UN Affairs Deputy Office Director Leonardo Bencini December 20 and requested Italian support for USG proposals for ongoing budget negotiations in the UN Fifth Committee. Bencini said Italy understands U.S. concerns about UN budget growth and agrees that savings are necessary, but does not share the U.S. approach. Bencini said a rollover budget would be unfortunate, because the UN needs a budget and the time for considering it is now. Establishing what he called an "indiscriminate, artificial cap" on budget growth at 7 percent would also be unwise, because it would be a decision made without considering the actual proposed expenses. The entire budget should be examined in depth and individual expenditures evaluated on their own merits. Bencini said Italy does not like the current piecemeal approach to the UN budget, but that postponement of the debate will not solve the problems, and there is sufficient time remaining before adjournment for the holidays to complete the Committee's work.
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